



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2002-06:** Interpretive Opinion on ADAAG 4.1.3(16)(a) Building Signage – Permanent rooms and spaces, and 4.30.4 Raised and Brailled Characters and Pictorial Symbol Signs (Pictograms). Are both the English and foreign designations on signs designating permanent rooms and spaces required to comply with 4.30.4 (“Letters and numerals shall be raised 1/32 inch, upper case, sans serif or single serif type and shall be accompanied with Grade 2 Braille.”)?

Summary: Per ADAAG 4.1.3(16)(a) “Signs which designate permanent rooms and spaces shall comply with 4.30.1, 4.30.4, 4.30.5 and 4.30.6.” ADAAG is not clear nor specific where foreign languages are part of the signage. It is desirable for all the verbiage to be upper case, raised, etc.

Although Braille equivalents for foreign languages may exist, e.g., as used in Japan, and foreign words may exclusively identify a space, both the U.S. Access Board and the Department of Justice have no opinion on the subject since English was the intended language when the ADAAG was written.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS § 103-50,

ADAAG 4.1.3(16) Building Signage and 4.30.4 Raised and Brailled Characters and Pictorial Symbol Signs (Pictograms)

Where both English and foreign languages are used on signs designating permanent spaces only the English portion is required to comply with ADAAG 4.30.4.

[Rul: 08/02] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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